

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

MINUTES OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Triennial Review Workshop
July 15, 2004
River Lodge
Fortuna, Ca

Staff present: Catherine Kuhlman, Dave Hope, and Lauren Clyde.

Dave Hope opened the workshop at 5:10 p.m., by introducing the Regional Water Board staff and covering the logistics of the workshop.

Lauren Clyde stated that the purpose of the workshop was to receive comments and or suggestions from the public that would assist the Regional Water Board staff in developing an up to date Basin Plan. Ms. Clyde stated that the Federal Clean Water Act and the State Porter Cologne (Water Quality Control Act) require a review of the Basin Plans every three years in order to keep the Basin Plan up to date with changes in regulations, policies, new technologies, and physical changes in the region.

Ms. Clyde indicated that the Basin Plan provides the basic framework for all of the Regional Water Board's activities. Each Regional Water Board in the state has a basin plan that is specific to their region. She stated that the Basin Plan is set up with six sections:

- The Introduction Section which describes the Basin Plan process and contains facts about the Region;
- The Beneficial Water Use Section which contains descriptions and listings specific to each major waterbody;
- The Water Quality Objectives Section which is necessary to ensure the protection of beneficial water uses;
- The Implementation Plans Section which describes the measures, which include specific prohibitions, action plans and policies which have been specifically adopted into the Basin Plan to form the basis for the control of water quality (i.e. Policy on Disposal of Solid Wastes, Policy for Ag Wastewater Mgmt);
- The Statewide Plans and Policies Section which describes policies that apply to the waters of the region is included (i.e. Ocean Plan, Thermal Plan, Sources of Drinking Water); and
- The Surveillance and Monitoring Activities Section which includes descriptions of the various types of statewide and region-wide monitoring programs (such as -

measurement of back-ground conditions, long-term trends and achievement with WQOs).

Following the public comment period, a second report will be released which will summarize and respond to the public comments. The input from the Board, public, staff & other agencies will be combined to develop a proposed Priority List of issues (or workplan) which will guide planning staff resources during the next three year period.

The written comment period for the Triennial Review will close on August 9th and a second Staff Report / Workplan will be released on August 19th. The Regional Water Board will then be asked to consider adoption of staff's proposed Priority List of Issues at a Public Hearing on October 6, 2004, in Santa Rosa.

Ms. Clyde gave a review of what the adopted Resolution would contain at the conclusion of the Regional Water Board's adoption:

- A priority list of issues to direct the planning efforts of Board staff during the three-year period from the end of 2004 through 2007.
- The Board has the option to adopt the list, or if they feel it is necessary to extend the public hearing for further consideration and adoption at a later date.
- A public hearing process- separate from the Triennial Review will be completed for each issue on the priority list.
- The Triennial Review record including the Adopted List / Workplan is then sent to the State Water Board for review for review (Board approval and review by OAL is NOT required as it is for Basin Plan Amendments) and the State Board then makes it available to USEPA for final approval.

Patrick Vaughan, California Department of Parks and Recreation, North Coast Redwoods District, gave the following comments:

- California Parks is currently considering gravel extraction to deal with increased sediment from legacy land uses on salmonid-bearing streams.
- Hypothesize that the retardation in re-vegetation is due in part to the low water-holding capacity of the coarse terrace deposits and the increasing separation between the terrace surface and the groundwater table as the stream incises.
- Request that Regional Board consider the positive effects of gravel extraction to restore stream function as part of the proposed issue, "Develop a Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy."
- The California Geologic Survey is working on a Coastal Sediment Master Plan that will examine the feasibility of linking sediment-starved beaches in the Central and South parts of the State to projects in the North Coast with excessive sediment.
- Encourage the development of revised water quality objectives for temperature and DO.
- Support the proposed amendment for the development of Biocriteria.

Tom Stokely, Trinity County Planning Department stated that the County will provide written comments prior to the closing date for public comments. The following is a summary of his comments:

- Supports the issue of site-specific temperature objectives for the Trinity as they have during the last two Triennial Reviews.
- Pleased that the Trinity River Flow Decision was recently made by the 9th Circuit Court and now must be implemented. Mr. Stokely highlighted the interesting history of the Trinity River flow issues dating back to the 1950's and leading up to the recent decision.
- As a result of this Decision, there are new opportunities for the Regional Board to implement some of the promises made in the past, such as a request to State Board to hold a water quality / water rights hearing. A Water Right's Order is needed to implement the Basin Plan temperature objectives for the Trinity so that Federal agencies are also required to comply.
- Request that Table 5 of Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan be revised to be consistent with the Flow Decision and the Hoopa Tribe's Water Quality Control Plan.

Cary Bartlett of Humboldt Flakeboard Panels, inquired if the Draft Compost WDRs referred to in the Triennial Review Staff Report, were available for public review. Staff responded that they had just learned that the Greenwaste Draft Order was still undergoing review at the State Water Board and is not currently available for review by the public. Staff has collected the names of those interested in this issue and will contact all interested parties when the Draft Order becomes available.

Regional Water Board answered questions from the public regarding the basin planning process, including a description of the individual process of each basin plan amendment.

The workshop concluded until the Public Hearing scheduled for October 6, 2004, in Santa Rosa.

Lauren Clyde recorded the minutes of the July 15, 2004, Triennial Review Public Workshop at the North Coast Water Quality Control Board.